

REMARKS

Claims 40-57 and 77-91 are pending in the application. Claims 40-57 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 77-79, 82-84, and 87 are amended as set forth above. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in accordance with the following remarks.

In the Office Action dated April 23, 2004, the Examiner rejected claim 87 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 87 has been amended to clarify the distinction between the first device and the second device. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 87 be withdrawn.

Claims 77-91 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohya et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,760,560, in view of Reeley, U.S. Patent No. 6,166,627, and Hayward et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,484,083. The Ohya reference discloses a robot apparatus that includes a robot, a control unit, an operation box, and a teaching pendant. The operation box and the teaching pendant are disposed on the outside of a safety fence.

The Ohya reference does not disclose or suggest a robot competition. In addition, the Ohya reference fails to disclose or suggest a remote disabling mechanism operable to selectively disable a plurality of robots independent of persons operating the plurality of robots. The Reeley and Hayward references fail to overcome the deficiencies of the Ohya reference. Although the Examiner cites the Hayward reference as disclosing a plurality of robots, the only suggestion or motivation to combine the references is "for mobility and navigation." The applicant respectfully submits that "mobility and navigation" have nothing to do with providing, in the context of a robot competition, a remote disabling mechanism for disabling a plurality of robots independent of persons operating the plurality of robots. In fact, there is no suggestion to combine the references, and the Examiner's asserted combination relies on an improper hindsight reconstruction of the invention. Accordingly, claims 77-86 are allowable over the cited references, and the applicant requests that the rejection of claims 77-86 be withdrawn.

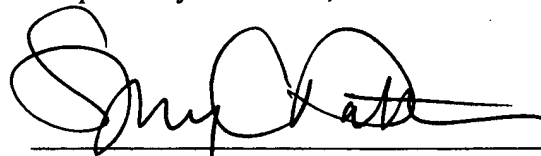
The cited references also fails to disclose or suggest at least one radio in communication with a first device operable to selectively disable at least one robot independent of a person operating the at least one robot, where the first device is located remotely from the at least one robot, and a second radio, coupled to a robot and in communication with the at least one first radio, operable to receive a signal for disabling the robot. Thus, claims 87-91 are allowable over the cited references, and the applicant requests that the rejection of claims 87-91 be withdrawn.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$490.00 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Date: 10/22/04

Respectfully submitted,



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